

Weekly Column for August 17, 2006

Earlier this week we were proud to have the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Troy Stakes Race take place at the Saratoga Race Track. This new tradition began three years ago and something strange or unique has happened in each race.

In 2004, John Velázquez broke the record for the number of jockey wins in a season by riding Willard Straight to victory.

A year later, the same thing happened. That's right, Velázquez aboard Willard Straight for the victory. That was a bit strange to see in horse racing.

This year, there was a new track record broken by the winner, Second In Command, with Edgar Prado as the winning jockey. Not surprisingly, Deputy Mayor Dan Crawley had the winning horse, as he is, second in command.

It was a great day at the track, with many friendly people saying hello and enjoying the race. We'll be sure to tell everyone about the fourth installment of the race early next year.

All summer long it seems as if we have had wonderful musical installments for people to enjoy, and the next few days are a great example of that.

Tonight we have a special concert happening place in Riverfront Park, as the 42<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Division Band is set to play a free concert. The action gets underway at 7 p.m. and if you read this early enough in the evening, come on down.

On Saturday evening, the second to last Powers Park Concert of the summer will take place with Elvis Night. The performing band is one of my favorites in the entire area- Rocky Velvet. If you have never seen these guys play, you owe it to yourself to make your way down to Lansingburgh Saturday night at 6 p.m. Word has it that we will even be giving away a free trip to Graceland, which was generously donated by Meisner Travel.

Finally on Sunday night, the second to last Collar City Live concert occurs with another of the great bands in the area- Sirsy. I have the same advice as with Rocky Velvet. Come downtown and you will not be disappointed.

Have a great weekend, there's only a few left before the leaves start to change color.

Harry J Tutunjian  
Mayor of Troy